

The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2006

Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

Present:

Anderson, Kelly
Ballantyne, Todd
Blanchard, Richard
Bowers, Mike
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)
Perkins, Ernie
Potts, Dan
Proctor, Travis
Smith, Hal
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)
Staley, John



Old Business

High Priority Habitat Projects

The committee endorses the attached priority habitat projects. These will be considered by the Division of Wildlife Resources and other groups during project and resource planning.

2006 Legislative Issues

Two items were presented to the committee. The committee was asked to contact organization members throughout the state to actively support the items listed below.

1) The Natural Resources Appropriations Sub-committee voted to ask Executive Appropriations for \$3.7 Million of Ongoing General Fund monies for DWR for "Benefits." This is their highest ongoing monies request, and their # 2 priority (of 13) overall. This approach exceeds and improves on what our coalition was asking for.

2) HB-328, "Eliminating the Age Requirement for Hunting Small Game;" and HB329, "Age Amendments for Hunting Big Game."

Wild Chukar Transplants

The Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation have expressed interest in trapping and transplanting wild chukars. The Foundation will work with the Regional Division of Wildlife Resources offices to assess priority locations for transplants. Dean Mitchell has offered to attend the next Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation board meeting on March 15 to discuss more on this topic.

Upland Game Master Plan

The Upland Game Master Plan has been approved. The final adopted plan is attached.

New Business

Sharp-tailed Grouse Transplant

Oregon and Washington State have asked the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for sharp-tailed grouse. Transplanted birds would benefit the existing populations and increase diversity. The committee supports trapping of sharp-tailed grouse with a proportionate reduction in hunting permits.

Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Survey

Preparations are being made for the annual sharp-tailed grouse lek survey. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Gaskill at jhgaskill@weber.edu.

Upland Game on the Internet

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Future meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell deanmitchell@utah.gov
Jim Gaskill jhgaskill@weber.edu

Ryan Sorensen ryan@mybirddog.com

Respectfully submitted ...

Ryan Sorensen